IN THE CLAIMS

1-24 (canceled)

25. (new): An image display method for dividing an image larger than a display region of a Web browser and preferentially downloading each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser from a server and displaying said downloaded divided images in said display region of said Web browser, comprising:

setting an arrangement consisting of plural number of frame elements on said Web browser, said frame elements corresponding to the display region to fit and display the divided images contained within a limited range of image area than the entire image in a predetermined positional relation to the display region of said Web browser, including the divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser, the divided image at corresponding position being fitted into each frame element and displayed or prepared to be displayed,

calculating the position of each frame element to be moved with respect to the display region of said Web browser and moving the frame element to the calculated position,

deleting each frame element which leaves away from the display region of said Web browser along with the relative movement of the image and adding each frame element which approaches the display region of said Web browser along with the relative movement of the image, so that the position of the arrangement of said frame elements changes its position with respect to the image, and

fitting each divided image at corresponding position of each added frame element into the added frame element and displaying or preparing to display the newly fitted divided image.

26. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein said "image display method for dividing an image larger than a display region of a Web browser and preferentially downloading each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser from a server and displaying said downloaded divided

images in said display region of said Web browser" comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, so that each divided image may be transmittable from said server, determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said Web browser, and enabling the corresponding divided image to be preferentially transmitted from said server.

27. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein said "image display method for dividing an image larger than a display region of a Web browser and preferentially downloading each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser from a server and displaying said downloaded divided images in said display region of said Web browser" comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said Web browser, and enabling the corresponding divided image to be preferentially transmitted from said server.

28. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein said "image display method for dividing an image larger than a display region of a Web browser and preferentially downloading each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser from a server and displaying said downloaded divided images in said display region of said Web browser" comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each area having a shorter length in one or both of a transverse direction and a longitudinal direction than said display region of said Web browser, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said Web browser, and enabling the corresponding divided images to be preferentially transmitted from said server, in which said transmitted divided images are rearranged in an original state and displayed on said Web browser.

29. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein said "image display method for dividing an image larger than a display region of a Web browser and preferentially downloading each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser from a server and displaying said downloaded divided images in said display region of said Web browser" comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, said Web browser determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said Web browser, and making a preferential request to the server for said divided image, and said server preferentially transmitting said divided image in response to said request, in which said Web browser displays the received divided image.

30. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein said "image display method for dividing an image larger than a display region of a Web browser and preferentially downloading each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser from a server and displaying said downloaded divided images in said display region of said Web browser" comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each area having a shorter length in one or both of a transverse direction and a longitudinal direction than said display region of said Web browser, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, said Web browser determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said Web browser in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said Web browser, and making a preferential request to the server for said divided images, and said server preferentially transmitting said divided images in response to said request, in which said Web browser rearranges and displays the received divided images in an original state.

31. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, further comprising preferentially downloading each surrounding divided image adjacent to the area of said

divided image contained in said display region of said Web browser, which is contained within a limited range of image area than the entire image in a predetermined positional relation to the display region of said Web browser.

32. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, further comprising determining whether or not said divided image is already downloaded and stored in said Web browser, in which if said divided image is already stored, said stored divided image is read out and displayed without downloading it from the server again.

33. (new): The image display method according to claim 25 wherein said divided image is obtained by dividing the image like a lattice in one or both of the transverse direction and the longitudinal direction.

34.(new): The image display method according to claim 33, wherein said lattice is formed by dividing said image in the transverse direction at every preset number of pixels from a left end position of said image as a start point, formed by dividing said image in the longitudinal direction at every preset number of pixels from an upper end position of said image as the start point, or formed by dividing said image in the transverse direction at every preset number of pixels from the left end position of said image as the start point and dividing said image in the longitudinal direction at every preset number of pixels from the upper end position of said image as the start point.

35.(new) The image display method according to claim 25, wherein proper identification information is attached to said each frame element, and said method for "deleting each frame element which leaves away from the display region of said Web browser along with the relative movement of the image and adding each frame element which approaches the display region of said Web browser along with the relative movement of the image" and "fitting each divided image at corresponding position of each added frame element into the added frame element" comprising:

using said frame element to be deleted as said frame element to be added, and changing the divided image fitted into the frame element from the divided image fitted into

the frame element to be deleted into the divided image at the position corresponding to the frame element to be added.

36.(new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein proper identification information is attached to said each frame element, and said Web browser holds said proper identification information associated with information of the display position of said frame element in the display region of said Web browser and identification information of the divided image fitted into said frame element, and displays the divided image fitted into each frame element at the corresponding position in the display region of said Web browser, based on said information.

37.(new): The image display method according to claim 36, wherein the identification information of said divided image is composed of information corresponding to an address in the entire image, in which said Web browser makes a request to the server for said divided image with the identification information of said divided image, and said server discriminates the divided image corresponding to said identification information and transmits it to said Web browser.

38.(new): The image display method according to claim 37, wherein the identification information of said divided image has no information for identifying a file format of each divided image.

39.(new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein the block is made up of said plural number of frame elements as a whole, and when a relative movement of the image is instructed, said Web browser calculates the coordinates of the origin of the block to be moved with respect to the origin of the display region of said Web browser, and calculates the coordinates of the origin of said each frame element to be moved, based on said calculated coordinates of the origin of the block, and moves the origin of each frame element to the calculated coordinates to implement said relative movement of said image.

40.(new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein said divided image is

obtained by dividing the image like a lattice in the transverse direction in which a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the transverse direction are fitted into said frame elements, said divided image is obtained by dividing the image like a lattice in the longitudinal direction in which a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the longitudinal direction are fitted into said frame elements, or said divided image is the image divided like a lattice in the transverse and longitudinal directions in which a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the transverse direction, a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the longitudinal direction, or a predetermined number of divided images in the transverse direction and a predetermined number of divided images in the longitudinal direction are fitted into said frame elements.

41.(new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein the image having the same contents are transmittable from the server at a plurality of magnifications and by dividing said image into a plurality of areas at each magnification, the image being displayed at a magnification instructed from the Web browser by said method.

42. (new): The image display method according to claim 41, wherein the number of pixels at which the image is divided in the transverse direction, or the longitudinal direction, or the transverse and longitudinal directions, is equal irrespective of the magnification.

43.(new) The image display method according to claim 41, wherein when a magnification change operation is performed by placing a pointer at a position on said image in a state where the image is displayed at one magnification, the image is displayed at the changed magnification with the position on said image where said pointer is located as a steady point.

44. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein the image having the same contents is transmittable from the server at a plurality of magnifications and by dividing said image into a plurality of areas at each magnification, the image being displayed at a magnification instructed from the Web browser by said method, in which the number of frame elements is equal, irrespective of the magnification.

45.(new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein each arithmetical operation at said Web browser being executed based on a JavaScript (registered trademark) transmitted from the server.

46. (new): The image display method according to claim 45, wherein said frame element is set up, employing <DIV> tags.

47. (new): The image display method according to claim 45, wherein the attribute information such as a file name and/or a file format for said each divided image is not incorporated into the HTML transmitted from the server.

48. (new): The image display method according to claim 25, wherein said image consists of a mixture of divided images having different file formats.